

REMARKS ON AUSTRALIAN PTINIDÆ AND
DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW GENERA AND SPECIES.

BY A. SIDNEY OLLIFF, F.E.S.

ASSISTANT ZOOLOGIST, AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM.

In this Paper I have drawn up descriptions of some new Australian species of Ptinidæ belonging to the subfamily in which the antennæ are inserted upon the front of the head. I have not attempted to make use of the tabular characters proposed by M. Boieldieu in his "Monographie des Ptiniores," as I find the Australian species of *Ptinus* do not permit of subdivision on colour and marking alone.

Ptinus exulans, Erich., is known to me from Jerrawa, Bowenfels, Sydney and Tasmania. It varies slightly in the size and shape of the white spots.

Ptinus fur, Linn.—I have seen specimens of this ubiquitous species from Melbourne and Tasmania.

Mezium affine, Boield. and *Gibbium scotias*, Fabr. have both been taken in the neighbourhood of Sydney, the former in some numbers, but they are undoubtedly introduced species.

Ectrephes formicarum, Pasc.—This species is known to range from Adelaide to West Australia. I have seen specimens from Gawler, Adelaide and Nichol Bay and it has been recorded from Freemantle.

All the following species, with the exception of *Ptinus adeps* and *P. imulus* which were kindly placed at my disposal by Mr. Masters, are in the collection of the Australian Museum.

PTINUS ADEPS, sp. n.

Ovate, rather broad, not very strongly convex, shining black, tinged with metallic green, moderately thickly clothed with long black pubescence; prothorax not very strongly constricted behind; elytra finely punctate-striate, with a moderately large transverse spot of white pubescence near the humeral angles and a narrow fascia behind the middle.

Head rather strongly produced in the middle, finely, irregularly and very closely punctured. Antennæ pitchy, finely pubescent. Prothorax slightly longer than broad, feebly constricted behind, strongly and not very closely punctured, the basal impression moderately deep. Scutellum small, rounded behind, finely pubescent. Elytra very feebly rounded at the sides, finely and closely punctate-striate, the interstices rather broad and impunctate. Underside and legs finely pubescent. Length 3-3½ mm.

Wide Bay, Queensland; Morpeth, Sydney, New South Wales.

This species and *Ptinus albomaculatus*, Macleay, from Gayndah, are very closely allied; the latter may be distinguished by its slightly larger size, blue-black colour and by its much more strongly punctured elytral striae.

PTINUS EMINENS, sp. n.

Elongate-ovate, moderately convex, pitchy black, shining, densely clothed with rather long black pubescence; prothorax not very strongly constricted behind; elytra rather strongly and irregularly punctate-striate, with four large transverse patches of yellow pubescence, two near the humeral angles and one on each side behind the middle.

Head produced into a point between the antennæ, finely and closely punctured. Antennæ castaneous, clothed with fine grey pubescence. Prothorax slightly longer than broad, rather finely and closely punctured, deeply impressed at the base. Scutellum small, rounded behind, densely covered with grey pubescence. Elytra nearly parallel for two-thirds of their length, then arcuately rounded to the apex, rather strongly and irregularly

punctate-striate, the interstices narrow and very finely rugose: each elytron with two patches of yellow pubescence, one near the humeral angle not much broader than long, the other behind the middle and strongly transverse, the first of these patches edged with grey pubescence externally. Underside and legs castaneous, densely clothed with grey pubescence. Length $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm.

King George's Sound, West Australia; four specimens found between the fronds of the grass tree (*Xanthorrhoea*.)

A very distinct species, quite unlike anything known to me.

PTINUS ATTRITUS, sp. n.

Elongate-ovate, moderately convex, dark metallic brassy green; prothorax very densely clothed with long velvety dark brown pubescence except on the median line; elytra rather strongly punctate-striate, moderately thickly covered with long black pubescence: each elytron with a small tuft of yellow pubescence near the base, a broad indistinct patch of grey pubescence near the humeral angle extending hindwards towards the suture and a conspicuous yellow fascia behind the middle.

Head produced into a point between the eyes, finely and closely covered with grey and brownish yellow pubescence. Antennæ castaneous, clothed with grey pubescence. Prothorax longer than broad, rather abruptly constricted behind, finely and closely punctured, no distinct median line, the pubescence divided down the middle thus giving the prothorax a furrowed appearance. Scutellum small, rounded behind, finely pubescent. Elytra rather strongly punctate-striate, the interstices broad, impunctate: each elytron with a moderately broad oblique fascia behind the middle composed of yellow pubescence, bordered below with grey pubescence, a tuft of grey pubescence just beyond its extremity near the lateral margin. Legs pitchy, covered with grey pubescence. Length $2-2\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Port Lincoln, South Australia; King George's Sound, West Australia.

In its general outline and tufted upper surface this species seems to approach *Ptinus niveicollis*, Boield. from St. Domingo, but in every other respect it is widely different.

PTINUS IMULUS, sp. n.

Elongate-ovate, rather convex, pitchy black, somewhat shining; prothorax thickly clothed with black pubescence, two small indistinct patches of yellow pubescence at the base; elytra finely punctate-striate, an indistinct patch of grey pubescence near the humeral angles and a distinct transverse fascia considerably behind the middle composed of yellowish pubescence.

Head very feebly produced between the antennæ, very finely punctured and pubescent. Antennæ dark ferruginous, finely pubescent. Prothorax not very strongly constricted behind, very finely, irregularly and closely punctured. Elytra with the sides arcuately rounded, finely punctate-striate, the interstices moderately broad, impunctate. Legs ferruginous, finely pubescent. Length 2 mm.

King George's Sound, West Australia.

PTINUS EGENUS, sp. n.

Elongate-ovate, moderately convex, dark ferruginous, shining, moderately thickly covered with long yellow pubescence; prothorax with the sides somewhat thickened in the middle, not very strongly constricted behind; elytra moderately strongly striate-punctate, with a small patch of grey pubescence at the humeral angles.

Head very feebly produced between the antennæ, finely punctured and pubescent. Prothorax rather longer than broad, extremely finely and not very closely punctured on the disc, a few strong punctures along the anterior margin; the sides slightly thickened just before the constriction; basal impression rather deep. Scutellum small, rounded behind, finely pubescent. Elytra with the sides arcuately rounded, striate-punctate, the interstices rather broad, impunctate. Underside and legs dark ferruginous, very finely pubescent. Length 3 mm.

Lane Cove, Sydney, Bombala, Illawarra, New South Wales.

This species should be placed between *Ptinus tectus*, Boield. and *Ptinus exulans*, Erich. Its shining upper surface, finely punctured prothorax and much less closely striate-punctate elytra will serve to distinguish it.

PTINUS LONGUS, sp. n.

Elongate, narrow, moderately convex, pitchy black, shining, rather thickly clothed with long yellow pubescence; prothorax rather strongly constricted behind; elytra dark piceous, with the sides nearly parallel, distinctly punctate-striate, a yellow patch composed of short pubescence extending from behind the middle to just before the apex, ornamented on the anterior border and at the apex with grey pubescence, a small spot at the humeral angle and a common fascia near the base also composed of grey scales.

Head rather strongly, irregularly and closely punctured. Antennæ ferruginous, finely pubescent. Prothorax slightly longer than broad, moderately strongly rugose-punctate, rather abruptly constricted and strongly impressed behind. Scutellum small, rounded behind, finely pubescent. Elytra nearly parallel for two-thirds of their length, then arcuately rounded to the apex, finely but distinctly punctate-striate, the interstices moderately broad, impunctate. Underside and legs dark ferruginous, densely covered with grey pubescence. Length $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Wide Bay, Queensland.

My knowledge of this very distinct species is confined to a single male example.

DIPHOEBIA, gen. nov.

Body elongate-ovate, convex. Head small, constricted on each side behind the antennæ. Eyes small, lateral. Antennæ eleven jointed, filiform, the basal joint considerably enlarged, the second about as long as the first but not enlarged, the following joints slightly decreasing in length towards the apex. Prothorax elongate, anterior margin slightly elevated, with a strong curved impression behind the middle terminating on each side at a point where the prothorax is rather strongly constricted. Elytra oval, with short elongate impressions at the base. Legs rather long; femora somewhat thickened; tibiæ unarmed; tarsi five jointed.

This genus connects *Diplocotes*, Westw. (Thes. Ent. Oxon, pl. 3, fig. 6) with *Ptinus*, but is sufficiently distinguished by its elongate and deeply impressed prothorax (which is narrowed and strongly constricted behind) and by its filiform eleven jointed antennæ.

DIPHOBIA FAMILIARIS, sp. n.

Elongate-ovate, strongly convex, pitchy black, somewhat shining. Head rather finely and closely punctured, with an indistinct median line; the anterior margin bisinuate. Antennæ clothed with short grey pubescence; first four joints finely rugose. Prothorax considerably longer than broad, slightly narrowed behind, sparingly clothed with short bristly grey hairs, distinctly striolate, the curved impression more strongly impressed in the middle than near the margins; the sides rounded in front, rather strongly constricted at the apical two-thirds. Elytra globose, impunctate, with indistinct traces of striae, four moderately strong basal impressions; the suture feebly raised. Underside coloured as above; sterna moderately strongly and closely punctured; abdominal segments less strongly and sparingly punctured. Legs pitchy. Length $2\frac{1}{2}$ -3 mm.

South Australia. Under bark; apparently an abundant species.

Immature specimens have the elytra and legs of a reddish testaceous colour.

EXASIBA, gen. nov.

Body elongate, convex. Head transverse, constricted just in front of the eyes. Eyes small, lateral. Antennæ eleven jointed (?), (1) the basal joint longer than broad, the second about half as long as the first, obliquely truncated behind, the third narrower in front than behind, fourth to sixth joints similar to the third in shape, but considerably larger, seventh and eighth moniliform smaller than the preceding, ninth globose and enlarged, tenth smaller, slightly longer than broad. Prothorax elongate, anterior

1) The unique specimen upon which this genus is founded appears to have lost the terminal joint of each of its antennæ.

margin rounded, with a transverse slightly curved impression behind the middle terminating on each side at a point where the prothorax is rather strongly constricted. Elytra elongate-ovate, with large impressions at the base. Legs long; femora slender; tibiae and tarsi unarmed, the latter five jointed.

Allied to *Diphobia* and *Diplocotes*, but distinguished by its peculiar antennae, narrower and more elongate prothorax (which is provided with a median line) and long slender legs.

ENASIBA TRISTIS, sp. n.

Elongate, strongly convex, dark piceous, shining, finely and not very closely pubescent. Head rather long, narrow, slightly emarginate in front, finely, irregularly and rather closely punctured, with a moderately strong transverse impression about the middle. Antennae clothed with short grey pubescence, shining. Prothorax much longer than broad, slightly broader in front than behind, rather strongly and somewhat irregularly striolate; the sides feebly rounded in front, constricted at the apical two-thirds; a strongly impressed median line. Elytra elongate-ovate, very finely aciculate longitudinally and very finely striate-punctate, six rather large basal impressions. Underside coloured as above. Legs dark reddish testaceous. Length 4 mm.

King George's Sound, West Australia.

DIPLOCOTES FOVEICOLLIS, sp. n.

Elongate-ovate, strongly convex, castaneous, shining. Head rather finely and closely punctured; the anterior margin bisinuate. Antennae clothed with fine grey pubescence, joints 2-9 moniliform. Prothorax much longer than broad, narrowed behind, moderately strongly striolate, the curved impression not very strongly marked, with a large circular fovea in the middle; the sides produced into an obtuse angle just before the middle, strongly constricted just behind the middle; posterior angles acute. Elytra pale castaneous, extremely finely pubescent, finely

punctate-striate, the interstices narrow, with a few fine irregular punctures; the basal margin somewhat raised. Underside coloured as above. Legs pale castaneous. Length $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

New South Wales.

Allied to the common South Australian *Diplocotes Howittanus*, Westw. (Thes. Ent. Oxon. pl. 3, fig. 6) but differs in having its strongly constricted prothorax provided with a deep fovea on the disc behind the middle and its elytra more ovate, rather less strongly punctate-striate and very finely pubescent.